

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

3535 S. Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Suite 135, Baton Rouge, LA

**August 18, 2015**

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Don Thompson, Ben Babin, Anthony "Tony" Rouchon, John Brass, David Hoover, William "Carey" Jenkins, Terry Louque, Jerry Thibeau, Kenneth Wade Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Willie George Lee, Larry Thomas

NOTE: Vacant Seat(s) Livingston Parish, St. Helena Parish

ALSO PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau,  
ARBC Legal Counsel Larry Bankston

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Thompson.
2. Public Comments on Agenda Items: None
3. Minutes
  - The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon, second by Hoover to approve the July 2015 regular meeting minutes as presented.
4. Financial Statement Report
  - Rouchon presented to the Board the July 2015 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Babin, second by Brass to approve the July 2015 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.
5. Report by Executive Director - Discussed the following items:
  - Solicitation for bids was sent out for US Hwy. 61 Bypass on August 11, 2015.
  - Discussed the Bayou Baton Rouge Drop Structure, and La. Hwy. 19 Plans and Specs. All design work will be in-house by USACE.
  - Updated the Board on Advanced Acquisition 10. Discussed Mitigation lands/McHugh Swamp/Appraisal, Phase II. HTRW. Tract 39, and Utility Relocation status.
  - ARBC issued Right-of-Entry to Lilly Bayou Borrow Site, Tract ADV-1 and Baton Rouge Bayou Structure.
  - DOTD requested \$2 million of the \$4 million payment for the cash contribution. There was a discussion concerning payment of that amount. ARBC requested staff provide calculations totaling amount of expenditures made for purchase of properties since the amended CEA dated September 12, 2012. This will be continued until next month's regular ARBC meeting.
  - Report by Delmar, DOTD: DOTD Environmental is working on the Phase II HTRW for Beech Grove Farm property, Parcel 39. Some additional information was requested from USACE to determine the type of response needed to deal with the issues. DOTD Real Estate was reviewing the timber information for the properties at McHugh Swamp. A landowner, whose property is in Functional Element I near Carney Road, contacted DOTD expressing an interest in selling some property. Real Estate is following up. On the Brooks Lake Closure, USACE requested a letter from East Baton Rouge Parish concurring with DOTD's letter for a review of the feature. EBR informed Project Management that they were sending the letter. With USACE activities picking up, DOTD is requesting a status update of ARBC's permitting process. There are various utilities on both sides of Highway 61, which are located outside of DOTD's Right-of-Way. As such, any permitting must come from ARBC.
6. Report by ARBC Legal Counsel:
  - Updated the Board on the status of ARBC's permitting process. Bankston prepared draft rules which are similar and already in place for DOTD. Plans are to meet with DOTD attorneys for their expert review. ARBC is operating under the same set of rules modified for us. This will first be published in the Register then viewed by the House and the Senate Committee on Transportation.
  - The expropriation trial is set for September 22, 2015 – Irene Road permanent servitude.
  - Notification of Lease status – Letters were mailed to Bergeron and Bajoie. The Bergerons and Bajoies were given time to address the Board regarding their Lease Agreements with ARBC. Both requested additional time past the agreed upon time of their fully executed Lease Agreements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Jenkins, second by Rouchon to proceed with Bergeron's Lease Agreement as is with first rent payment due in October 2015, and Bajoie's rent payment became due in July 2015.
7. Old Business: Resolution #1118 authorizing the increase of the per diem for the Board of Commissioners of the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District to \$100 pursuant to the 2015 Regular Session, House Bill No. 709, Act No. 423, by Representative Harrison. Notice of the proposed action was published August 1, 2, and 3, 2015 in the official record of the Commission. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District (the "Governing Authority"), in regular session assembled, that the per diem of its members shall be fixed and increased to \$100.00. The \$100.00 per diem is lower than the maximum allowed under Act 423 of the 2015 Legislative Session. This resolution having been submitted to a vote thereon as follows:
  - YEAS: Babin, Brass, Hoover, Louque, Thibeau, Thompson
  - NAYS: Jenkins, Rouchon, Welborn

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ABSENT: Lee, Thomas

Motion carries, and the resolution was declared adopted on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2015. (See attached Public Notice)

8. New Business: Consideration of Professional Contract with Redshift Consulting – Computer IT. Bankston will review the proposed contract. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Thibeau to continue this matter until the next Regular Meeting of the ARBC.
9. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon, second by Hoover to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

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/s/ Don Thompson

Don Thompson, ARBC President

Date: September 15, 2015

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/s/ Toni B. Guitrau

Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary